

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Preliminary Amendment is filed in order to facilitate processing of the above-identified application. In particular, as shown in Figure 9, each compression block CL includes a plurality of sound units SU (encrypted units). Nothing in the prior art shows, teaches or suggests encrypting each compression block as a plurality of encrypted units as now claimed in claims 1, 8, 13 and 19-21. Rather, *Yoshiura, et al.* merely discloses compressing symbols until the compressed data reaches a block size and then encrypting the entire block as one unit.

Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for a reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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